**Lomonosov Moscow State University**

**Final project «The World of Britain»**

**Youth problems in Britain and in Russia**

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**Introduction**

Youth is a wonderful, exciting and a very important period in the life of every person. It’s the time when a person is full of hopes, dreams and plans for future. Some people think that it’s easy to be young because you are strong, active and full of energy. The only problem is school and the choice of leisure time activities. Everything else is considered to be parents’ responsibility. Another problem that young people face is the choice of future career and life style. In fact, it is a very important period of life. Almost everything that happens later in life is the result of these choices. The outcomes may be both positive and negative depending on how someone decided to live. Apart from joyous and bright side of the youth, there are many other difficult issues in youth life. First of all, it can the problem connected with drugs or alcohol. Many young people choose the wrong path not knowing where it leads. It depends on many factors: family background, surrounding society, personal or genetic traits. Unfortunately, the number of young addicts in our country is large, especially among teens. The second problem is the misunderstanding between kids and parents, which can also lead to unwanted effects. Young people often want to decide everything themselves without any adult help. At the same time parents often don’t understand their children. Thus, misunderstanding grows deeper.

In my opinion, being young is not easy. You have to make different choices every day, which shape your future. On the other hand, it is the best period of life for everyone. Some things that happen at young age, can never be repeated in the adulthood

In Russia it is hard to find well-paid work, and people go to big cities to find a job or to get good education. Many young people want to enter university because they don’t want to go to the army in this time. Now people want to be well-educated, because now the majority of firms and companies employ only higher qualified people, but universities can’t educate all of them free, so those who don’t have enough money can’t get enough knowledge.

I think that the youth problems in Russia and in Britain are mainly the same.

In Britain life used to be fun for teenagers. They have money to spend, and free time to spend it in. But for many young people life is harder now. Jobs are difficult to find. There is not so much money around. Things are more expensive, and it’s hard to find a place to live. Teachers say that students work harder than they used to. They are less interested in politics and more interested in passing exams. They know that good exam results may get them better jobs.

Three-quarters of young people do more or less what their parents did. They do their best at school, find some kind of work in the end, and get marry in their early twenties. They get on well with their parents, and enjoy family life. They eat fish and chips, watch football on TV, go to the pub. Most young people worry more about money than their parents did twenty years ago. They try to spend less and to save more.

For some, the answer to unemployment is to leave home and look for work in one of Britain’s cities. Every day hundreds of young people arrive in London from other parts of Britain, looking for jobs. Some find work and stay. Others don’t find it and go home again, or join the army of unemployed in London.

**What kind of problems do youth have nowadays?**

Today it is much spoken about youth problems. More and more social problems are associated with being young. Youth mention the following ones:

Widespread youth problems:

Emotional problems, health problems, Family problems, youth depression, personal problems

Youth aggression, obesity.

Youth dangerous problems:

Alcoholism, teen suicide, smoking tobacco, taking drugs

Youth new problems:

Mobile phone, computer and TV addiction, teen terrorism, young gamblers

**Youth as a social group**

Nowadays every person understands that our world has changed very much in comparison with the last years. But the main thing is not that humanity has undergone scientific and technical revolution, but the change of the inner world of people. Especially it concerns young people.

Youth is the part of society who saves and follows the traditions of preceding generations. They possess such powerful force that is able to invert this world heels over head. Sure, this force must be directed at peaceful aims and be embodiment only of true values. However, modern youth do not keep their culture in such way. Thus, the new age is the new young people.

In my opinion, there are some basis factors influencing on it. One of them is our society. It influences the formation of the teenagers’ true values more than their families do. A child grows in a family where he gets education and there is his primary socialization. But he or she has to make contacts with other people and their influence is not far always positive. Besides, there are different youth subcultures. Not all their values are true values. Many of them have the aim to oppose public foundations. Thus they damage teenagers’ minds and can incite them against the whole world.

Young people are active participants in their own history. Past generations of radical students have played a part in protests and revolutions against the existing order of society. A youth movement in this sense has an ideological or political character.

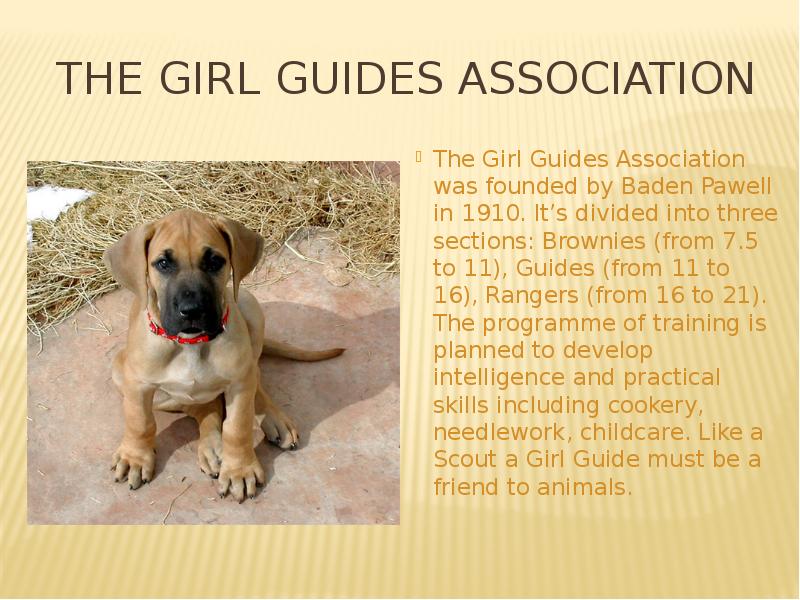
At the same time ordinary young people usually belong to a youth movement through membership of an adult-led, voluntary youth organization, such as the Scouts or Guides. There are also fashion-led “youth cultures”, identified by types of dress, music and language. The term “youth movement” is so wide that it can refer to Punk Rockers as well as the Young Conservatives.

**Youth organizations in Great Britain Made by:**

There are about 60 youth organizations in Great Britain. All youth organizations can be divided into three large groups: 1. non-political organizations; 2. youth organizations associated with political parties; 3. youth organizations controlled by religious bodies.



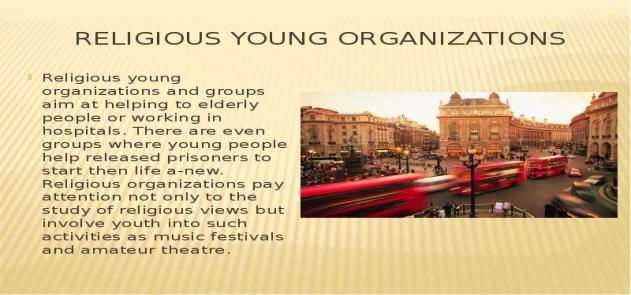
The two largest non-political youth organizations are the associations of the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides. There are about 1300000 boys and girls in them.



Brownies (from 7.5 to 11), Guides (from 11 to 16), Rangers (from 16 to 21). The programmer of training is planned to develop intelligence and practical skills including cookery, needlework, and childcare. Like a Scout a Girl Guide must be a friend to animals.



non- political organizations There are some other non-political organizations: the Combined Cadet Force, Sea Cadet Corps, the Woodcraft Folk, the Youth Hostels Association, the National Federation of Young Farmers Clubs, Greenpeace.



hospitals. There are even groups where young people help released prisoners to start then life a-new. Religious organizations pay attention not only to the study of religious views but involve youth into such activities as music festivals and amateur theatre.

All there organizations As you see, all there organizations aim at preserving and strengthening the social and political system existing in the country. Many of them have done and still are doing useful work in providing leisure facilities for young English people

**Youth organizations in Russia Made by:**

Soviet Russia had Young Communist groups: Octobrist, Pioneer and Komsomol whose aim was political education of young people

**Children and youth organizations of the Russian Federation**

As of 1 January 2009, the Federal Register of Civic Children and Youth Organizations receiving state support, which is kept pursuant to the act “On state support of civic children and youth organizations” included 31 organizations, of which eight were children's organization and 23 were youth organizations, 29 were all-Russian organizations and two were international organizations.

Russian organization “Union youth housing complex of Russia” (Union JHV of Russia), The all-Russian organization “Youth union of jurists in the Russian Federation” The all-Russian organization “National youth league”. The biggest children organizations include the International Union of Children's Associations “Union of pioneer organizations – Federation of children's organizations“(UPO-FCO) The all-Russian organization “Social Children and youth initiatives” (SCAYI). The Scout movement, which emerged at the beginning of the 1990s, became more active.

In the current stage, political parties increasingly establish their own youth organizations: The all-Russian organization “Young guards unified Russia” The youth organization of the “Equitable Russia” party The “Young agrarian union” (a youth organization of the Russian Agrarian Party), The Union of Communist Youth The URF youth organization (Union of Right-Wing Forces) The youth organization of the LDPR party.

Our youth is mostly similar to the youth abroad in many aspects of life. Youth organization Green peace deals with the most urgent ecological problems of today's world. It protests against nuclear weapon test, sea and soil pollution, etc.

Sport clubs are characteristic youth organizations in the US and UK. They unite people, who are interested in baseball, football, basketball, golf, etc. You can attend any club: from theater clubs to bird-watching clubs. Bird-watching clubs are very popular, especially in Great Britain.

And at the age of 14 children have regular part-time job to earn some pocket money. Some young people work in their church organizations. They help elderly people or work in hospital.

There are even some groups, where young people help released prisoners to start their life anew. Youth and youth movement over decades have become important factors in the life of both countries.

**Evolution of Youth Groups in Russia and in Britain**

**Youth subculture**  
Today the life of many young people in Russia as well as in other countries of the world is influenced by popular culture. The young follow certain stereotypes that are imposed on them through TV, movies, and music. In their lifestyle they try to imitate the images of their idols. Other young people are sports and music fans. They frequent stadiums and huge concert halls. They follow their idols in their tours and support them. Unfortunately they are intolerant to those who don't share their view. It's a specific aspect of the youth subculture that can't be ignored. But many young people have other interests. For some of them getting knowledge is of primary importance. They are fond of reading serious books, listening to serious music. They go to the conservatory and theatres. They are engaged in Hi-Tech through the Internet. They are fond of stories and novels written by Victor Pelevin, Boris Akunin. The novels by Strougutsky's are best read even today, because it is science fiction, which is very popular among young people.

I think that subculture is the culture of those who are dissatisfied with their place in society. Different subcultures have their own beliefs, value systems, fashion, and favourite music. For example the subculture of Rastafairians was based on nostalgia for a lost word. They idealized Africa. Rastafairians were Afro-Caribbean immigrants in Britain. They began to wear distinctive clothes, camouflage jackets, large hats in the red, gold and green colours of Ethiopia and put their long, uncut hair in dreadlocks. They brought to us such tapes of music as ska, reggae and hip-hop. Many subcultures developed as a result of music fusion of black and white cultures. For example skinheads, which wore heavy boots, jeans and braces and shave their hair or cut it very short. Skinheads dreamed about the revival of the traditional working class culture. Skinheads were identified with extreme right wing views. There are many other subcultures such as Hippies, Punks, Mods, Rockers, Ravers and many others. Generally they were young people with low self-respect, who did poorly at school. They opposed the traditional world in which they where settled as fiasco elements.

Subcultures are not that bad as they are thought to be. Teens want to show off. But at the same time a lot of teens think about changing the world to the best. Subcultures are for teens. Then, I am sure, teenagers become good citizens. Some who were punks became the main editors of famous newspapers. A subculture is a way of life. It is not a fan club; it is a real life for us.

* 1Punks The punk (English punk) the youth culture which has arisen in the middle of 70th years in the Great Britain, the USA, Canada and Australia, which prominent features Are love to music the punk-fate, the critical attitude to a society and a policy. The father-founder of alternative fate, current which is closely connected with the punk-fate. They are thought to rebel against the society or the older generation. The music is aggressive.



* Hippie Hippie youth philosophy and the subculture which has arisen in the USA in Blossoming of movement has fallen to the end the beginning of 1970th years. They dont conform to society standards and support a liberal attitude and lifestyle. They always want to change the world for the best. They accept other people as they are.



* Ravers Ravers youth subculture of constant participants of raves parties the electronic dancing music, received mass popularity in 1988 in the Great Britain. For appearance bright colors in clothes, plastic are characteristic sunglasses, short hair at young men, color locks long hair at girls. In design the symbol was used "Smilie".



Bikers Bikers fans and admirers of motorcycles. Usual motorcyclists, at bikers the motorcycle is a part of a way of life. Characteristic association with adherents on the basis of it also is way of life. Bikers also named by admirers of bicycles, Motorcyclists. Movement of bikers has arisen in the USA.



**Youth dangerous problems**



**Drugs, Alcohol, Tobacco**

Another factor influencing young people is mass media. There are a lot of violent programmers and articles on TV and in printed press. Negative characters become the ideal heroes for children who try to imitate their behavior in real life. Teenagers become more nervous and aggressive, their psyche is seriously damaged and very often some of them commit crimes. It is known that children and teenagers crime is growing. Practically all the criminals are young people .It is caused by social inequality, poverty, availability of alcohol and drugs. As the aim of all public debates is getting material welfare, young people try to get it at any price without making efforts. They steal, violate and kill other people. In these cases the number of criminals among teenagers increases and that is natural and inevitable.



Alcohol and drugs are also among the most actual problems nowadays. Children get their first experience in alcohol or drug use while studying at school. They do not understand how dangerous it is, how harmful it is for their health. Children see beautiful life with cigarettes and drugs in films and try to behave like their heroes. They become addicted to these things and degraded later.

However, I think not all the youth are such bad people without any moral standards and behavior who doesn’t think about their future. The most of them have true values, they are ready to study and work hard to enjoy the life. But young people cannot do it without the help of the adults. They need their strong support and advices. Therefore the adults should lead the youth on to the right way of life, teach them to overcome difficulties and always be close to them.

Today it is fashionable to speak about teenage problems. A few years ago alcohol, fights, murders and other kinds of violence were more problems of adults rather than young people.

But now, as official reports admit, violence, AIDS, drugs and alcohol are more and more associated with youngest. For many children from poor families violence, drinking problems and all that is associated with poverty becomes more and more real.

The Government surveys show that every fifth teenager who was arrested for criminal actions, was younger than 14 and couldn't be sent to prison. Almost half of teenagers have an experience with drugs, alcohol and sex under age of 16. A lot of teenagers who have drug or alcohol addiction almost never believe that they are dependent. These things are often combined with family and school problems.

**Problems of unemployment of young people.**



Unemployment is society’s most insidious and cruel enemy, and undermines the dreams of young people. People of almost every age are susceptible to this pernicious disease but it hits the youth the hardest. It's name is unemployment. The persent-age of unemployed youth in the total number of the jobless is high. In many developing countries the situation is more serious. Many young people to commit suicide. Unless the economic situation in the world changes, youth unemployment will mount. This prodictions refer to all categories of workers-with high and low skills in town and country. For all there possible distinctions, these young people over outside the production structure of society. They are deprived the possibility of creating there are "surplus" from time to time some may get a hit of luck, but the lot of the majority is to feel their unlessens to lose their ideals and become disillusioned. This is a time bomb and is a heavy accusation of any social economic system.

What has gone wrong? Some specialists explain that the changes of our society, the system of our life force young people to choose their own lifestyle. On the one hand, our society agrees that 15-17-years old people are old enough to be responsible for what they do and gives them quite a lot of freedom and rights. On the other hand, most adults think that teenagers are too young to be taken seriously. This misunderstanding has produced many problems. Actually, a lot of teenagers say that their parents let them do anything they want and are quite indifferent to their problems. Many teenagers get upset or depressed when they can't solve their problems. As a result, it makes them believe that there is only one way out - to stop living and commit suicide.

**Generation Gap**

Many young people face the problems of generation gap. Parents want to protect their children from harm and sometimes go too far. In my opinion, excessive care is not the best method of education because everyone should make independent decisions and to learn from own mistakes. Misunderstanding often arise because of generation conflict, adults sometimes don’t understand new tendencies and spirit of the time that’s why occur too strict with their children.

Communication is very important in interaction. The ability to ask for advice, to discuss concerning problems, to find a compromise are valuable qualities of any family. However there must be certain rules and even prohibitions, because child should know that life is not so easy and not always there is opportunity to get what you want without any effort.

Our society is becoming more and more stratified. There has appeared a class of rich people and a class of poor people (to be more exact – people leaving below the poverty line). Children of well-off parents consider themselves "the smart set" or "gilded youth". Their parents give them every material benefit, pocket money any time they ask. A lot of these children have their own brand-new cars and personal computers. It goes without saying that it causes jealousy and the desire to possess the same things on the part of children whose parents are poor and cannot afford it. Such feelings can push teenagers to committing a crime and it leads to a wide spread of juvenile delinquency.

Nowadays children start using computers very early. Tweens and teens are so fascinated by them that they spend hours and hours at their personal computers or at computer clubs. The electronic universe replaces their contacts with friends and dominates their life completely. Obsession with computers brings about a mechanical, disillusioned mentality and inhibits their emotional development.

The heads of youngsters are also being filled with violent pictures they have seen on TV. Children are very naive and impressionable. And no wonder that they are so aggressive and arrogant in real life. They are thrown into such a harsh world, especially if they live in a city. These days a lot of parents think that they should be lenient with their children, they should let them find out about life for themselves, they should leave children to develop their own idea of right and wrong. But it's a grave mistake.

Parents should try to protect their children from possible bad influences and give them clear guidance about right and wrong. There is no way to predict how today's children will turn out. Keeping faith in kids is necessary. They are not bad. They are optimistic. They expect to have a better life than their parents'. And grown-ups – if they are prepared to admit it – could learn a thing or two from their children. One of the biggest lessons they could learn is that enjoyment is not "sinful".

**Conclusion**

Nowadays every person understands that our world has changed very much in comparison with the last years. But the main thing is not that humanity has undergone scientific and technical revolution, but the change of the inner world of people. Especially it concerns young people.

Youth is the part of society who saves and follows the traditions of preceding generations. They possess such powerful force that is able to invert this world heels over head. Sure, this force must be directed at peaceful aims and be embodiment only of true values. However, modern youth do not keep their culture in such way. Thus, the new age is the new young people.

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It is known that children and teenagers crime is growing. Practically all the criminals are young people .It is caused by social inequality, poverty, availability of alcohol and drugs. As the aim of all public debates is getting material welfare, young people try to get it at any price without making efforts. They steal, violate and kill other people. In these cases the number of criminals among teenagers increases and that is natural and inevitable.

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